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**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF MARKET RASEN**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.**

and of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND SURVEYOR**

**ARTHUR E. SWEETING**

**Part-time Public Health Inspector :**

**C. KING**

for the Year

**1958**

**Public Health and General Purposes Committee—**

Councillor A. R. FARROW (Chairman), with all the Members  
of the Council.

**Medical Officer of Health—**

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

**Public Health Inspector—**

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

**Part-time Additional Public Health Inspector—**

C. KING

To the Chairman and Members of the MARKET RASEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nettleship and Gentlemen,

It will be noted from my Report that a very severe epidemic of poliomyelitis was experienced during 1958. This has resulted in a considerable demand for vaccination against the disease.

The occurrence of this epidemic drew attention to the fact that a similar epidemic was recorded in 1891. Apparently no case of this disease occurred in Market Rasen Urban District between these two epidemics.

The sanitary condition of the town continues to improve with the increasing installation of water closets.

The general standard of cleanliness in food premises continues to be satisfactory as can be seen from the report of your Public Health Inspector.

Mr. Arthur E. Sweeting has continued to tactfully push forward many necessary improvements to the essential hygiene of the town.

Mr. C. King has again afforded much useful help in the inspection of meat.

I wish to thank you, Sir, and the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Councillors for the general support afforded me in my routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY.

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

The duties and outlook of the Medical Officer of Health have undergone a vast change since the beginning of the century.

The lethal diseases which were once our chief concern have been to a great extent, controlled but they have been replaced by others, in our mortality returns, and these may prove more difficult to eliminate. The infantile diseases and infections which were responsible for such a large proportion of the total deaths in the community have been reduced to a very small proportion of the whole. In their place have arisen the number of preventible deaths in middle and old age from arterial or heart disease and from neoplasms (cancers). There is no doubt that most of these are due to certain habits of civilised humanity.

The increasing consumption by the juvenile population, of sweets and other sugary and starchy foods between meals is almost certainly the chief cause of dental caries and may be sowing the seeds of other digestive diseases which occur later in life.

The atmospheric pollution of the atmosphere in cities is probably the cause of the great difference in the mortality returns for bronchitis from those recorded in rural areas.



The marked rise in deaths from cancer of the lung is ascribed as due to the excessive smoking of cigarettes together with pollution of the air. The rise in the morbidity rates for mental diseases presents another distressing feature of our present civilisation.

The education of the public in the development of positive health should become more and more the aim of all physicians and, of course of all employed in Public Health work. This must of necessity commence in the schools and one must hope that this aspect of education will come to be regarded as not the least important of the teacher's tasks.

The Medical Officer of Health of the future will find himself faced with many new problems if the more chronic and deadly diseases of middle and old age are to be gradually eliminated. An active physical and mental life extending into the years of so called retirement should be the aim of all. As Seneca said long ago "Man does not die he kills himself". We must learn how to live if we are to disprove this aphorism.

## VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Land	....	....	....	....	....	....	972 acres
Water	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 acres
Population (Census 1921)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2178
Population (Census 1931)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2048
Population (Census 1951)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2138
Population (Estimated 1958)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2150
Habitable Houses (Census 1931)	....	....	....	....	....	....	611
Habitable Houses (Estimated 1958)	....	....	....	....	....	....	796

The rateable value of the Urban District on the 1st April, 1958 was £20,092 and the product of the penny rate was £78-11-2d. for the year ending 31st March, 1958.

With the relatively stable state of the population the housing position continues to be satisfactory.

## VITAL STATISTICS

There is again little change from previous years. Births and deaths are once more about equal and there has been little change in the population since 1921.

The number of deaths from malignant disease shows a considerable increase while those from diseases of the heart and circulatory system have gone down.

There was again one death from cancer of the lung. Two deaths from poliomyelitis were notified for the first time.

### Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year 1958

Total live births	....	....	....	37
Illegitimate births	....	....	....	1
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated				
resident population (Corrected)	18.6	For England and Wales	16.1	
Total deaths	....	....	....	36
Death rate per 1,000 estimated				
resident population (Corrected)	11.2	For England and Wales	11.7	
Deaths of infants under one year	....	....	....	2
Deaths from puerperal causes	....	....	....	Nil
Stillbirths	....	....	....	4
Deaths from malignant neoplasms	....	....	....	8
Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system	....	....	....	11

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ....	Nil	Nil
2. Tuberculosis, other forms ....	Nil	Nil
3. Syphilitic disease ....	Nil	Nil
4. Diphtheria ....	Nil	Nil
5. Whooping Cough ....	Nil	Nil
6. Meningococcal infections ....	Nil	Nil
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ....	I	I
8. Measles ....	Nil	Nil
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	Nil	Nil
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ....	I	Nil
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ....	I	Nil
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast ....	Nil	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ....	—	Nil
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	I	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ....	I	Nil
16. Diabetes ....	I	I
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ....	Nil	
18. Coronary disease, Angina ....	I	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ....	Nil	I
20. Other heart disease ....	2	2
21. Other circulatory disease ....	Nil	I
22. Influenza ....	Nil	Nil
23. Pneumonia ....	3	Nil
24. Bronchitis ....	I	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ....	Nil	Nil
26. Ulcers of the stomach and duodenum ....	Nil	Nil
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ....	Nil	Nil
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ....	Nil	I
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ....	I	Nil
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ....	—	Nil
31. Congenital malformations ....	Nil	Nil
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	I	I
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ....	Nil	Nil
34. All other accidents ....	Nil	I
35. Suicide ....	Nil	Nil
36. Homicide and operations of War ....	Nil	Nil
Total	15	21

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

One case of measles and one of whooping cough were notified during 1958.

There was a severe epidemic of poliomyelitis during the year. This extended into the Caistor Rural District where the eight cases all occurred within a radius of nine miles of Market Rasen.

In the Urban District eleven cases were notified, seven of these were paralytic and four non-paralytic. The first cases were reported at the beginning of July and the last (in the Caistor Rural District) in October.

In the 19 cases notified for the two districts five adults were affected and four of these died. This is an exceptionally heavy mortality. One boy of 13 years of age also died. So far as the remainder of the cases (all children) were concerned the disease proved to be relatively mild and there were no deaths.



I understand four of the nineteen cases are still receiving treatment for varying degrees of paralysis.

In addition to the cases notified there were almost certainly three abortive cases which were not notified.

Several other patients were sent into hospital as possible cases but were sent out as "not proven". Clinically one of these patients might have been regarded as a case of poliomyelitis.

This epidemic was the worst recorded during 1958 in Great Britain.

There is no record of an earlier notification of poliomyelitis in Market Rasen though an epidemic of paralysis did occur in 1891. (This was reported at the time by Dr. Barton). It is now considered that this previous epidemic was one of poliomyelitis and was one of the earliest recorded in England.

Four survivors of this epidemic have been traced and three have been interviewed. There is no doubt that these three had poliomyelitis I base this opinion on their present paralytic state and the history of their illnesses in 1891.

It is possible that there are other survivors of this epidemic still living in this area.

I attach a table showing the incidence of notifiable diseases since 1944.

It will be noted that no cases of diphtheria, typhoid and paratyphoid fever or dysentery have been reported during the fifteen years since 1944.

Notifiable Diseases	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Measles	1	138	3	1		3	19	43	4		60	6	2	39	
Whooping Cough	1	7				6	1	2	2	4	6			43	1
Scarlet Fever			8					2			2	1	2	2	2
Erysipelas															2
Tuberculosis Pulmonary		1	1	1		2		2	2			2		1	
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary										1			2	1	
Food Poisoning					1										
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	7														
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	4														
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>5</b>

## **IMMUNISATION**

The campaign for immunisation against poliomyelitis tended to reduce the number of children who were given protection against other diseases.

One effect of the epidemic of poliomyelitis was to increase considerably the number of children whose parents wished them to be protected against this disease.

Nineteen children were immunised against diphtheria and twenty-one received a "Booster" dose.

Twenty-one children were immunised against whooping cough.

Twenty-three children were vaccinated against smallpox and revaccination was carried out in four cases.

Six children were immunised against tetanus.

A number of these immunisations were given in a combined form.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information with regard to the totals of immunisation and vaccinations.

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN**

The number of children attending the School Clinic in Market Rasen was 128 but 24 children also attended for examination before getting a certificate to allow of their employment. This makes a total of 152 children seen at the Clinic during the year.

A number of children were referred for aural examinations following on findings that they had some degree of defective hearing.

Bronchitic conditions, anaemia and asthenia formed the bulk of the conditions requiring treatment.

In addition 14 children were treated for wax blocking their ears.

The bad habits of the children who appear to be eating various forms of lollies etc. through the day, are certainly largely responsible for the very low standard of dental hygiene in the schools.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

### **1. Mental Illness**

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after care is carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

#### **Mental Defectives**

The County Council through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council remains responsible for the care and supervision of mentally defectives in their own homes. This work is carried out by the Health Visitors.

### **2. Laboratory Facilities**

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, 8 St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Antityphoid Serum and Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Anti-toxin can be supplied from the above Laboratories.

### **3. Ambulance Facilities, Under National Fire Service**

An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's Doctor or Nurse, or in the event of emergency by asking the Telephone Operator for the Ambulance Station.

## **SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.**

### **Nursing in the Home**

All District Nurses now come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Treatment and after care of tubercular cases now come under the Regional Hospital Board. Nearest clinic is at Lincoln. School Clinics remain under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

### **School Clinic Market Rasen**

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.—12 a.m.

### **Orthopaedic Clinic**

2 p.m. every fourth Tuesday in month.

### **Dental Clinic**

At Market Rasen for mothers and children.

### **Midwifery and Maternity Services**

Administered by the Lindsey County Council.

### **Health Visitors**

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

## **HOUSING**

There has been little alteration in the situation in this respect. One house has been built by private enterprise.

None have been necessary as replacements for condemned houses.

It will be seen from Mr. Sweeting's report that in only four cases were improvement grants applied for. A great many houses in Market Rasen could do with extensive improvements as little has been done in this respect to bring properties up to modern requirements.

## **WATER SUPPLIES**

There has been a considerable improvement in the number of houses with an indoor supply of piped water.

Apparently 677 houses out of 796 now have this amenity.

The usual annual samples were taken and were found to be very satisfactory. The hardness of the water is indeed its only failing.



## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

The Sample of Water ex Tealby Springs, Received from H. Dixon Esq., Waterworks Manager, Public Health Dept., Caistor.

On the 14th November, 1958.

Has been examined with the following results :—

	Parts per million
Total solids	384.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	12.0
Free Ammonia as N	0.006
Albumenoid Ammonia as N	0.012
Nitrates as N	3.4
Nitrates as N	Nil
Chlorides as Cl	22.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	260.0
Permanganate figure (N/80, 4 hours)	0.104
Calcium as Ca	121.0
Magnesium as Mg	3.7
Sodium as Na	19.7
Carbonates as CO <sub>3</sub>	156.0
Sulphates as SO <sub>4</sub>	48.0
Nitrates as NO <sub>3</sub>	15.0
pH Value	7.4

J. R. HUNECKE, B.Sc.(Hons.), A.R.I.C.,

Consulting Analyst

## SANITATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year there were 13 conversions to water closets in cases where pail privies or privy vaults were in use previously. With 698 houses with W.C.'s installed a great improvement has been recorded over the last few years. The pail privies were reduced by 7 and the vault privies by 6 during the year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1958 covering the duties as Public Health Inspector.

In the field of sanitation steady progress was made during the year but there is much yet to be done.

The butchers, builders, shopkeepers and others with whom I have to work proved most co-operative and this made the work of the department much easier.

Again I thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. King for the help given during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. SWEETING.

Public Health Inspector.

## **HOUSING**

Though no premises were demolished during the year some reconditioning was done.

A good deal of minor improvement work such as the providing of water supplies inside premises, provision of slop sinks and the like was also carried out.

## **IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

During the year it was decided to allow grants in respect of the improvement of four dwellings (addition of bathrooms etc.) and for the conversion of a large house into flats.

Whilst the number of properties in respect of which grants were agreed is a slight increase compared with last year I feel, as there are so many properties suitable for improvement and which would be eligible for grant, that many more requests should be forthcoming.

## **FOOD PREPARING AND MAKING UP PLACES**

The good standard reported previously has been well maintained and only one or two very minor infringements had to be dealt with.

## **MEAT AND FOODS**

The number of animals slaughtered again shows an increase over previous years and once more it was possible to inspect every animal.

The excellent quality of the animals used for human food is revealed in the small amount of meat it was necessary to condemn as unfit for human food.

## **PRIVY CONVERSIONS**

This work is proceeding slowly and during the year thirteen privies were converted to water closets and one was abolished.

Every effort is being made to encourage owners of properties having the old pail or midden closets to take advantage of the grants available for the conversion of these to water closets.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

This work has been carried out satisfactorily and no complaints of a serious nature were received.

Tipping continues on the Linwood Road site during the dry weather period and at the Sewage Works at other times.

This arrangement appears to work satisfactorily and every effort is made to keep the sites tidy and free of vermin.

The trade refuse collection scheme continues to be most helpful to the traders of the town.

## **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION**

Many private dwellings and business premises were surveyed during the year and only three of four minor infestations were discovered. These were satisfactorily dealt with by the Joint Rodent Operator.

The Council's sewers and refuse tips were given treatments when necessary.

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No serious difficulties were encountered during the year and the one or two minor sewer obstructions were easily dealt with.

The motors and other apparatus at the works at Middle Rasen worked satisfactorily and were well maintained.

The monthly sanding and flushing of the sewers at both Market Rasen and Middle Rasen was again carried out, this, without doubt preventing any serious obstruction.

## STATISTICS

### Housing

Total number of new houses erected during the year

By the Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	-----

By other Local Authorities	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
----------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	-----

By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	....	I
----------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	---

Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition

Orders	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
--------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----

### Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954-57 :

No. of certificates of disrepair issued	....	....	....	....	Nil
---	------	------	------	------	-----

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects  
(under Public Health or Housing Acts)

....	....	....	364
------	------	------	-----

Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	488
--	------	------	------	-----

### Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence  
of informal action by the local authority or their officers

....	113
------	-----

### Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

#### Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were  
served requiring defects to be remedied

....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	-----

#### Proceedings under the Housing Acts :

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were  
served requiring repairs

....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	-----

Number of unfit houses purchased by local authority in accord-  
ance with Housing Acts

....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	-----

Number of certificates of disrepair issued

....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	-----

### Slum Clearance—proceedings under the Housing Acts

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition  
Orders were made

....	....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	------	-----

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of  
Demolition Orders

....	....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	------	-----

Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders

Nil
-----

Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by under-  
takings

....	....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	------	-----

Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance  
Orders

....	....	....	....	....	Nil
------	------	------	------	------	-----

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof

....	Nil
------	-----



Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Section 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections, 34, 35 and 46 of Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	Nil

### Housing Acts—Overcrowding

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
Number of persons concerned in such cases	5

### Housing Act, 1949

Number of houses for which applications for grants have been received	5
Number of houses subject to grant	5
Number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	Nil

### Moveable dwellings, tents, vans, etc.

Number of site licences	Nil
Number of individual licences	2
Total number of caravans permitted under above licences	2
Number of inspections during the year	—
Sites	Nil
Dwellings	6
No. of contraventions remedied	Nil

### FOOD PREMISES :

#### Bakehouses

Number in district	3
Number of inspections	12
Number of contraventions	1
Defects remedied	1

#### Milk Supplies

No. of distributors on register :	
Sterilised	5
Pasteurised	1
Tuberculin Tested	1

#### Ice Cream

No. of manufacturers on register	Nil
No. of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	12
No. of inspections of premises made	48
No. of contraventions found	Nil
No. of contraventions remedied	Nil

#### Meat Products

No. of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	7
No. of inspections made	364
No. of contraventions found	1
No. of contraventions remedied	1

## Other Food premises

No. of inspections	....	....	....	....	....	....	114
No. of contraventions found	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
No. of contraventions remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

## Slaughterhouses

No. licensed—Abattoir type	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
No. licensed—private	....	....	....	....	....	5
No. operated by local authority :—						
Abattoir type	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Other	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	555	7	—	1474	1444
Number inspected	555	7	—	1474	1444
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—		8	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	1	—	3	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.7%	14.2%	—	.74%	1.4%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.72%	—	—	—	.9%

## Other food condemned :

26 lbs. tinned meats—Damaged or blown containers

## Drainage and Sewerage

No of houses with privy vaults in district	....	....	....	26
No. of houses with pail closets in district	....	....	....	72
No. of houses with water closets in district	....	....	....	698
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults				13

## Water Supplies

No. of houses supplied from public mains—in house	....	....	677
Outside taps	....	....	119

## GENERAL

### Offensive Trades :

No. of premises in district ....	Nil
<b>Knackers Yards</b>	
No. licenses ....	Nil
<b>Shop Act, 1950</b>	
No. of shops inspected ....	71
Contraventions remedied ....	1

### Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during year :

Abated as result of informal action by Public Health Inspector ....	24
Reported to Council—Statutory Notice issued ....	Nil
Statutory Notice not issued ....	Nil

### Details of Nuisances abated :

Refuse (After informal intimation) ....	1
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water ....	Nil
Drainage (After informal intimation) ....	20
Poultry and animals (After informal intimation) ....	2
Dangerous premises (After informal intimation) ....	1
Miscellaneous Nuisances ....	Nil

### Rats and Mice Destruction :

No. of rodent operatives employed—one shared with Caistor R.D.C.

No. of premises treated :

Dwelling houses ....	1
Other premises ....	3

There are no serious reservoirs of rats in district.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937 and 1948

No. on register ....	26
No. of inspections made ....	56
No. of defects found ....	1
No. of defects remedied ....	1





J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN